THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD) has established reserves of uranium at different places, particularly in the West Khasi Hills district in Meghalaya State in 1992. Recently significant uranium mineralization has been located at Umthongkut which is about 15 KM by a kachha foot from the nearest road head at Soling, West Khasi Hills district. The economic viability of this occurrence would be known only after assessment of the sub-surface data to be obtained by drilling.

This will partially help in fulfillment of requirement of fuel for nuclear reactors for generation of electricity.

(c) AMD has established 16400 tonnes of uranium reserves in parts of Meghalaya as per the following details:

Deposit Name	Tonnes of uranium oxide
Kylleng-Pyndengsohiong, Mawthabah (formely Domiasiat)	9500
Wahkyn	5300
Tyrnai	600
Gomaghat-Phlongdiloin	1000
TOTAL	16400

Participation of private sector and MNCs in nuclear power production

867. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHERJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made out any strategy for participation of private sector and MNC in production of nuclear power;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps for providing security to nuclear power plants and its infrastructure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) A proposal to amend the Atomic Energy Act, 1962 to enable private sector participation in nuclear power generation in the country is currently under consideration of the Government. However, no final decision has been taken.

(c) Adequate security measures for physical protection of the facilities are already in place in all our nuclear power plants and connected infrastructure. The same measures would apply to new power plants.

Terms and conditions of private mining

868. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA:
SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government identified thirty nine blocks of coal with total reserves of 14.31 billion tonnes to be given to public and private generation companies;

(b) if so, the terms and conditions on which such blocks would be given to these companies: and

(c) whether these would be out of the existing nationalized coal mines or they would be new blocks for fresh mining?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) The Government has identified 81 coal blocks having total geological reserves of about 20.02 billion tonnes for allocation to Government/private sector for permissible end uses. Out of these, 41 coal blocks with about 15.71 billion tonnes of coal reserves have been earmarked for allocation to public and private power generation companies as per the details given below:

Sl. No.	Category	Number of Blocks	Total GR (billion tonnes)
1	2	3	4
(i)	Coal blocks for allocation to power sector utilities through the Government company dispensation.	10	6.07